Met Office

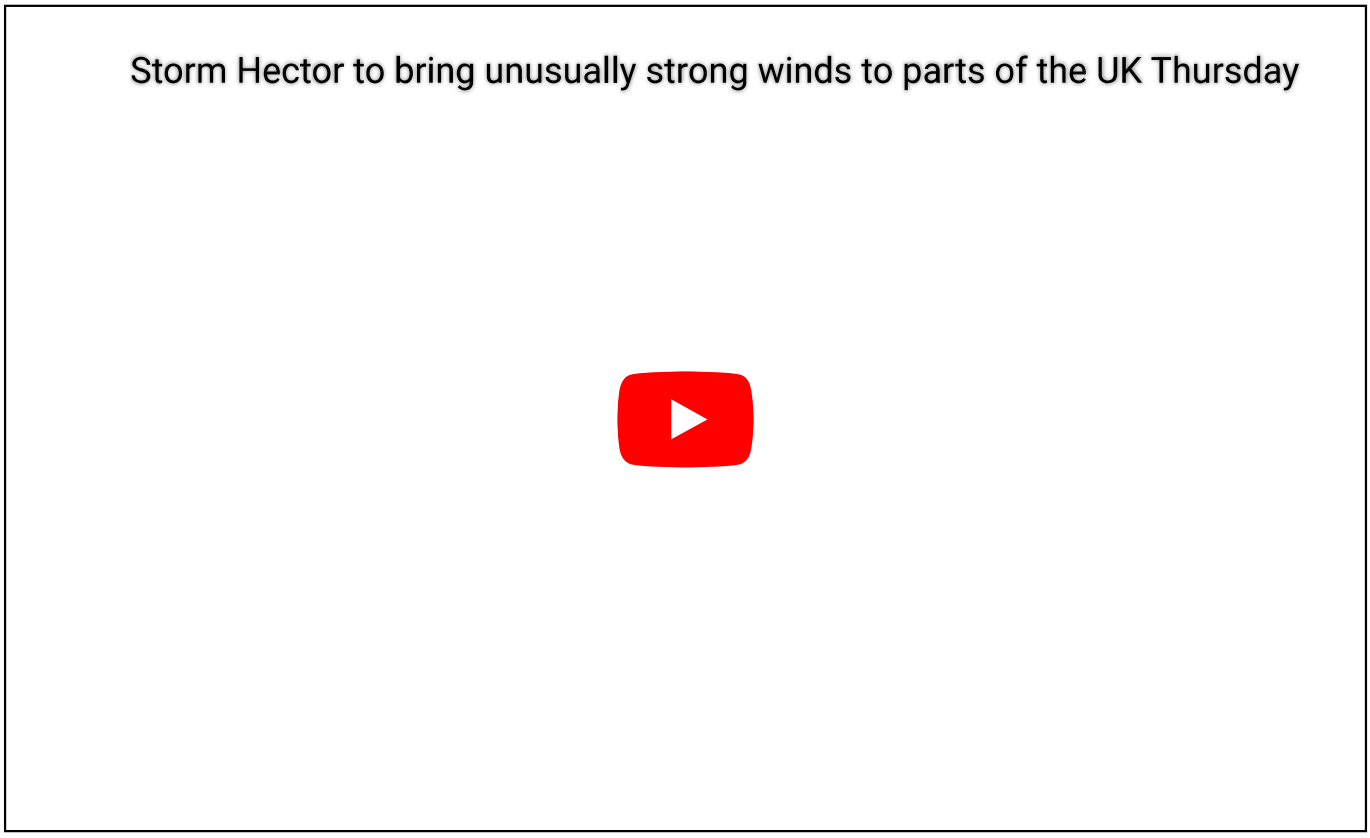
NEWS

Storm Hector sees an end to settled weather

Author: Press Office
14:01 (UTC+1) on Wed 13 Jun 2018

A deep low-pressure system will bring very strong winds and spells of rain to northern parts of the UK tomorrow, marking an end to the dry and settled weather seen across these parts over the past few weeks.

The unusually active depression, named Storm Hector by Met Éireann, is currently in the mid-Atlantic tracking northeast towards the UK. The storm is expected to move across Northern Ireland early on Thursday morning, before spreading eastwards across Scotland, northern England and north wales. Strong westerly winds will bring widespread gusts of 50-60mph to these areas, with gusts possibly reaching 70mph in exposed locations. A spell of heavy rain will accompany the strong winds, with parts of western Scotland seeing the highest rainfall totals.



Will Lang, Met Office Chief Meteorologist, said: “Storm Hector will deepen further tonight, allowing winds to strengthen during the early hours of Thursday morning. The strongest winds are expected to coincide with rush

hour in Northern Ireland and later in the morning for southern and central Scotland. A Yellow National Severe Weather Warning has been issued for the north of the UK and an Amber warning for parts of Northern Ireland, with the potential for disruption to travel, damage to buildings and power cuts.

"The public can prepare for the adverse weather this evening by securing loose objects such as garden furniture, outdoor toys and other loose objects. As it is summer and trees are in leaf, there is a greater risk of impact from debris."

Stein Connelly, Operator Manager for Transport Scotland has said, "The strong winds and rain may lead to difficult driving conditions, particularly for high-sided vehicles. As always, motorists should take extra time to plan journeys, follow police advice and drive appropriate to conditions. The strong wind may impact rail, air and ferry services, so travellers should check with operators to see if their journeys will be affected."

While Storm Hector is the first named storm to occur in summer, the UK and Ireland only began naming summer storms in 2017. Although not exceptional, it is unusual for winds to reach 69mph or higher in the UK during June. On 1st June 2015 and 7th June 2017 gusts of 69mph was recorded in Drumalbin and in Inverbervie, Scotland, however between 2004 and 2014 there were no reports of winds reaching this speed anywhere in Scotland.

Winds will gradually ease from the west during Thursday afternoon, with lighter winds returning across the country by Friday.

Whatever weather we experience over the next few days you can make sure that you and those around you are up to date with the forecast using our website, Twitter and Facebook, as well as our mobile app.